

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 185996 TOSEC 080175
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SMCCALL:AJ
APPROVED BY S:WCHRISTOPHER
D:DLAMB
S/S-O:AWOTTO
NEA:SSOBER

-----019435 070013Z /65
O 070002Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 185996 TOSEC 080175

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US, XF, PFOR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON MIDDLE EAST

1. SOVIET CHARGE VASEV CALLED ON AUGUST 6 TO CONVEY ON URGENT INSTRUCTIONS SOVIET APPREHENSION OVER REPORTS THAT YOU AND SADAT HAD WORKED OUT AN ARRANGEMENTS TO CONVENE A "WORKING GROUP" OF THE ISRAELIS AND ARABS TO PREPARE THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, EXCLUDING THE USSR AND THE PLO. MOREOVER, VASEV SAID, CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE SOVIET UNION AT GENEVA IN MAY, YOU ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE "UNWISE" TO SPEAK OF RESUMING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

2. READING FROM A NON-PAPER, AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF WHICH FOLLOWS, VASEV ADDED THAT NOTHING WAS SAID OF SUCH
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A PLAN OR US VIEW IN THE BRIEFING YOU GAVE HIM PRIOR TO YOUR MIDDLE EAST TRIP. IF THE REPORTS ARE TRUE, HE CONCLUDED, SUCH A RETURN TO ATTEMPTS AT MAKING SEPARATE DEALS WOULD UNDERMINE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, CONFLICT WITH THE CO-CHAIRMAN CONCEPT, AND WOULD NOT AUGUR WELL FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. I REPLIED THAT WE WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS A FULL AND FORMAL RESPONSE THE FIRST OF NEXT WEEK, BUT THAT I HAD

TWO IMMEDIATE POINTS TO MAKE. FIRST, THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN OF YOUR REMARKS AND THE REPORTS CITED WERE INACCURATE. SECOND, YOUR ACTIONS DURING THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST TRIP ARE DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN 1977; ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS ARE BENT TO THAT END AND NOT THE CONTRARY. THESE TWO POINTS, I SAID, WOULD BE MORE FULLY COVERED IN OUR FORMAL RESPONSE NEXT WEEK.

4. VASEV EXPRESSED HIS PRIVATE AGREEMENT WITH MY VIEW THAT MOSCOW MAY HAVE BEEN REACTING TO EARLIER REPORTS WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN CLARIFIED BY YOUR SUBSEQUENT REMARKS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE RECEIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ANY ADVICE ON POINTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FORMAL RESPONSE WE WILL BE PREPARING.

6. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SOVIET NON-PAPER:

BEGIN TEXT: IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT REPORTS HAVE APPEARED, SOME OF THEM REFERRING TO THE SECRETARY'S OWN STATEMENTS, THAT IN THE COURSE OF THESE TALKS AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON SOME SORT OF "WORKING SECRET

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GROUP" COMPOSED OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ARAB STATES PARTY TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, ISRAEL AND THE USA. THE WORKING GROUP WOULD PREPARE THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

HOWEVER, AS IS EVIDENT FROM THESE REPORTS, IF THEY CONFORM TO REALITY, THE SPONSORS OF SUCH A PLAN DO NOT FORESEE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVIET UNION. ALSO EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION IS THE PLO - THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE - WHICH AS IS WELL KNOWN IS ONE OF THE DIRECTLY INTERESTED PARTIES TO A SETTLEMENT. FINALLY, REGARDING THE TIMING FOR A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THERE HAS BEEN REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE "UNWISE" TO SPEAK OF RESUMING ITS WORK THIS YEAR.

IN MOSCOW, NATURALLY, THE QUESTION ARISES OF HOW TO UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IF THE AMERICAN SIDE UNDERTAKES TO CARRY OUT PLANS OF THIS NATURE IT WOULD MEAN THE ABROGATION OF THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING IN MAY THIS YEAR AT GENEVA THAT THE US AND USSR SHOULD DIRECT THEIR JOINT EFFORTS TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE WORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE DURING THE AUTUMN OF 1977. IN THIS CONNECTION,

IN INFORMING US ON THE EVE OF HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST
OF THE POSITION WHICH HE, VANCE, WOULD TAKE IN HIS TALKS
WITH THE LEADERS OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL, THE

SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS UNDER-
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IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO SEE THAT THE CREATION OF SOME KIND
OF NEW, RESTRICTED AND ONE-SIDED MECHANISM FOR A MIDDLE
EAST SETTLEMENT, AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT THE PLANS
BEING DISCUSSED AMOUNT TO, WOULD IN FACT LEAD TO THE
GENERAL UNDERMINING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WITH ITS
INSTITUTION OF CO-CHAIRMEN, AS THE BEST APPROACH AND
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PAGE 04 STATE 185996 TOSEC 080175

DISCUSSION AND SETTLEMENT OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE
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LAWFUL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALES-
TINE.

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT TO ADVANCE SUCH AN IDEA AT THIS
TIME DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR A REAL SETTLEMENT IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND CANNOT HELP THE ESTABLISHMENT THERE OF
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THE PAST TO EXPECT IT TO ACQUIESCE IN SUCH AN ACTIVITY.
WE STAND FIRMLY FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND
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FRAMEWORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND WILL ADHERE TO
THIS POSITION IN THE FUTURE. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 185996

NODIS

FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED AUGUST 7, 1977
SENT USDEL SECRETARY IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 185996 TOSEC 080175

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US, XF, PFOR

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PAGE 02 STATE 185996

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PAGE 03 STATE 185996

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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APPROVED BY:S/S:DANDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 185996

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 185996 TOSEC 80175 ACTION SECRETARY AUG 7.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 185996 TOSEC 080175

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

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PAGE 04 STATE 185996

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/SOV:SNCCALL:MB
APPROVED BY:EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
UR:MR LUERS

S/S:JETHYDEN

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S E C R E T STATE 185996

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 185996 ACTION SECSTATE DATED AUG 07:

QTE: S E C R E T STATE 185996 TOSEC 080175

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEMARCHE, PEACE PLANS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE185996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMCCALL:AJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840072-1278
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770887/aaaacvze.tel
Line Count: 636
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 77df5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 12
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1680657
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PDEV, UR, US, XF
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77df5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009